



Fact Sheet

SS/HS Is Improving Academic Achievement

On the California Standards Test scores, all students showed substantial increases in their Academic Performance Index scores, and, on the English/language arts section, 40 percent of the students were at the “proficient” or better level. Prior to the SS/HS grant, proficiency among the same group was less than 30 percent. (Project director, Redding SS/HS initiative, Redding, CA)

During the past 3 years, [Florida’s Comprehensive Assessment Test] scores in the [school] district have been steadily increasing. Analysis of discipline data demonstrates an overall reduction of 10 percent since FY 2000. Over 50 schools (26 elementary, 9 middle, and 7 special sites) are currently addressing safety needs. (Project Director, Lee County Safe Schools/Healthy Students initiative, Lee County, FL)

While the Safe Schools/Healthy Students (SS/HS) Initiative is helping to reduce violence and substance abuse among our youth, it also is helping them to do better in school. A prevention approach to violence and substance use has the added advantage of helping students to improve their academic performance. Improved academic performance often makes a world of difference for a child who is struggling not to be left behind.

Student Assistance Programs were the single most important factor that kept me in school. There were times when I felt like [Student Assistance Program] staff were the only people who truly cared about me. (High school student, San Juan SS/HS initiative, Carmichael, CA)

Attendance specialists have increased student attendance at the high schools from 82 percent to 90 percent by calling and visiting the homes of students with attendance problems. (Proviso SS/HS initiative, Proviso, IL)

Learning can only take place when students are in school. In some cases, attendance specialists call or visit the homes of students to discuss with their parents the reasons behind the absences. In other cases, SS/HS initiatives provide assistance to the families of students who cannot attend school for various reasons, such as lack of childcare. Regardless of the program, SS/HS initiatives across the country are helping to keep students in school.

The faces of SS/HS are many, but the vision is one—safe schools, healthy students.

Faces of SS/HS: Redding, CA

Nestled in the north end of the Sacramento Valley, between the Cascades and the Trinity Alps, the city of Redding is 540 miles north of Los Angeles and 433 miles south of Portland, OR. With a population of 80,000, the Redding metro area is the regional center of northern California for health and legal services, retail shopping, employment, and outdoor recreation. Yet more than 3,000 individuals and 1,100 children are homeless. In response to standardized test scores showing less than 30 percent of students achieving “proficient” status, the Redding School District established the Redding Empowerment Model for the Education and Development of Youth (Project REMEDY). Partnering with an existing collaborative of schools, school districts, law enforcement, courts, and public and private mental health providers, REMEDY is providing a broad range of services to children and families who are homeless, at risk, or living in local motels. Funded in 2001, REMEDY serves more than 4,000 students and supports the overarching goal of improving the quality of life for all students in Redding and other school districts.